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CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
SUBSISTENCE DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, February 20, 1865.

To the Officers of the Subsistence Department, Confederate States :

In assuming the duties of Commissary General, I call for a very active co-operation from every officer of the Subsistence Department.

Our military reverses have not diminished the difficulties of supply—but on that account the greater the necessity for effort and the greater the pride of success.

Embarrassed finances and interrupted communications do not take from the military difficulties—but therefore the greater the necessity for patriotic appeals to a people who have never yet refused when properly approached.

The popular misappreciation of the Commissary service, so often the excuse of the indifferent, may not tend to incite the deserving officer to redoubled efforts: yet that effort *must* be made, and with redoubled zeal, tact, patience and judgment. Officers of this all-important service *can* make it respected in defiance of present public sentiment, and they will be expected to do so.

In the same spirit, therefore, that their Head undertakes a charge so responsible, will every officer, agent and subordinate be expected to act and to work. Let all resolve that our armies must and shall be fed.

J. M. ST. JOHN,
Commissary General.

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